

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

HOEKSTRA, Peter (Republican)
Representative, 2nd District, Michigan
Elected 1992 to 103rd Congress;
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Groningen, Netherlands - 30 October 1953
Home: Holland, Michigan
Marital status: Married (Diane) - 3 children
Religion: Christian Reformed Church
Education: Hope College, B.A., 1975; Univ of Michigan, M.B.A., 1977
Military: None
Profession: Furniture company executive

Political: Held no previous office. Defeated incumbent Rep Guy Vander Jagt (R) in the primary in the redrawn 2nd District and went on to defeat John H. Miltner (D) in the 1992 general election with 63% of the vote. Reelected 64% in 2000 with 64% of the vote and in 2002 with 70%.

Rep Hoekstra is a conservative who favors minimal government and regulation. Sleeps in his office when Congress is in session. Considered a party loyalist, he nonetheless opposed his party on fast-track trade promotion authority, President Bush's 2002 farm bill and mandatory educational testing.

In the 106th Congress, discussed failures of the financial audits at the Dept of Education. Opposed adding \$4 billion to an emergency spending bill to provide funding for US efforts in Colombia and Kosovo; said it was out of character with what he expected the Republican Party in the House to do.

In the 107th Congress reacted strongly to the wave of corporate illegal and unethical conduct and suggested that more congressional oversight would be necessary if businesses could not clean up their act. Proposed a "Shareholders Bill of Rights" that should be followed by corporate chiefs. Focused on fiscal policy, education and the war on terrorism during the 107th Congress. In the wake of the 11Sep01 terrorist attack, served as vice chairman of the Intelligence Terrorism and Homeland Security Subc which sharply criticized the CIA, FBI and the NSA for their performance prior to the terrorist attacks. Opposed the effort to permit pilots to carry guns in airplane cockpits. Even though he conducted a probe of Teamsters Union corruption, was considered critical to the Teamster's Union endorsement of President Bush during the 2000 election. Was critical of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc. stating that the entity competed unfairly with private businesses for Federal contracts. Authored an amdt to the FY02 foreign ops approps bill to withhold funds from the Andean Counterdrug Initiative until the State Dept issued a full report on the Peruvian Air Force's shootdown of a private plane carrying a US missionaries.

At the beginning of the 108th Congress came off the Budget Cmte and went on the Transportation Cmte.

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE – Subc on Select Education – Chairman

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

PERMANENT SELECT INTELLIGENCE – Subcs on: Technical & Tactical

Intelligence – Chairman; Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence;

Intelligence Policy and National Security